

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/718,738

Examiner

DANIEL G. MARIAM

Applicant(s)

CHEN ET AL.

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed 6/21/06 & Tel. Interv. dated 10/4/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-6,8 & 10-20 (will be renumbered as 1-17).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 10/4/2006.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


DANIEL MIRIAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT AND REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Examiner's Amendment, Response to Amendments, and Reasons for Allowance

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Timothy DeWitt (Reg. No. 35,857) on October 4, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Amend claim 3 as follows:

At line 2, delete "0" and replace it with "1"

Amend claim 4 as follows:

At line 2, delete "0" and replace it with "3"

Amend claim 5 as follows:

At line 2, delete "0" and replace it with "3"

Amend claim 6 as follows:

At line 1, delete "0" and replace it with "1"

Amend claim 13 as follows:

At line 1, delete "0" and replace it with "12"

Amend claim 15 as follows:

At line 1, delete "0" and replace it with "14"

Amend claim 20 as follows:

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At line 1, delete "0" and replace it with "19"

Response to Amendment

2. In response to the Office Action mailed on March 21, 2006, applicants have submitted an amendment filed on June 21, 2006; amending objected dependent claim by rewriting it in independent form; amending independent claims 1, 8 and 19 by incorporating the limitations of objected dependent claim 16 (which is now rewritten in independent form); and canceling claims 2, 7, and 9.

Reasons for Allowance

3. Claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 10-20 are allowed. The claims will be renumbered as 1-17.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closest prior art of Berriss, et al. does not disclose or fairly suggest, among other things, providing a first index level, a second index level, and a pre-set number; providing a image database having a source image; wherein said first index level has an index value, the second index level has an index value, said first index level having a list of buckets, the second index level having a list of buckets, and the buckets each having a counter; if the counter of said bucket in the first index level is larger than the pre-set number, then the bucket in the first index level has a second index level, and the counter is the sum of counters of said buckets in the second index level; if the counter of the bucket in the first index level is less than or equal to the pre-set number, then the bucket in said first index level has a list of image templates, and the number of the image templates is the counter. It is for these reasons and in combination with all of the other elements of the claims that claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 10-20 are allowed over the closest prior art of Berriss, et al.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL G. MARIAM whose telephone number is 571-272-7394. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00-4:30) FIRST FRIDAY OFF.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MATTHEW BELLA can be reached on 571-272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


DANIEL G MARIAM
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2624

October 5, 2006